

# Nauvoo Legion

## 1841-1871

The Nauvoo Legion began in 1841 when John C. Bennett negotiated for a unit of State militia - the original Nauvoo Legion. Joseph Smith was Legion commander and a lieutenant general in the Illinois State Militia. In 1844 new Governor Thomas Ford disarmed the Legion. Three days later Joseph Smith was murdered. Three months later Governor Ford commissioned Brigham Young to take Smith's place and to have the Legion stand ready for action if needed. In 1845 Governor Ford disbanded the Legion. Mormons expelled from Illinois, <sup>they</sup> headed towards the Rocky Mountains. After horrible trials, the Mormons finally reached the Salt Lake Valley. In 1849 Brigham Young ordered every able bodied man over 14 and under 75 years of age into different companies, under the name of the Nauvoo Legion. In 1903, the Legion was officially changed to the National Guard.



**Wasatch County Veterans List**  
**NAUVOO LEGION 1841-1844**

**3 Feburary 1841 to June 1844**

**March April May 1849**

**Fall 1870-1871**

Alexander, Henry Samuel

Sessions, Richard

Shirts (Schurtz), Peter

Thomas, Charles Carter